## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: March 1, 2004 Contacts: Sherry Llewellyn

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## Police Investigating Arson at Pizza Shop

Howard County Police are investigating a weekend arson that caused significant damage to a pizza shop in Elkridge.

Howard County Fire & Rescue responded to Philly's Best Pizza and Subs in the 6100 block of Meadowridge Rd. at around 3:30 a.m. Saturday for a report of a building fire. The police and fire departments' joint Fire Investigation Unit responded to the scene to determine the cause and origin of the fire. The initial investigation revealed multiple points of origin and an unusual odor. Investigators called for the assistance of an accelerant K-9 and began an arson investigation. Investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) also responded to assist.

Investigators discovered the remains of an incendiary device inside the business. They determined that the shop's front bay window had been broken and the device thrown inside.

The total damage to the business is estimated at more than \$300,000. Investigators have no suspects and are encouraging anyone with information to call (410) 313-3700.

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